

TOP SECRETTICOM/I-49

Notes on OKW/CHI and on Intercept Organisation
under K.O. Spain.

The attached notes, based on the interrogation of a prisoner or prisoners of war, have been received from G2 USFET. Their precise origin has not yet been ascertained.

Part VI consists of the comments of G.2.-C.1. Section USFET on the personalities mentioned in the notes.

[See I-105]

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TOP SECRET

2.

I

Chiffrier Abteilung.

- A. Haus des Fremdenverkehrs, Potsdamer Brücke
- B. Nordsternhaus, Ferebelliner Platz
- C. Lager Zossen = "Zeppelin"

The Chiffrier Abt. had the bulk of its people working at Z^V. With few exceptions they were forced to live there too under difficult conditions. Entrance to the camp only when in possession of 2 or 3 differently colored cards that belonged together but were distributed separately and were changed at least every month. Up till Nov, '43 the camp belonged to and was under the entire control of OKW/. Then the SS took this work out of the hands of the Wehrmacht. Admiral Canaris was no longer the head of this section. Chi-Berlin worked on with the same staff only thinned out according to directives received. (from HIMMLER?) Besides that, Chi lost some of its most competent men in connection with the 20th July 44. At the beginning of 1945 orders were issued to eliminate every officer doing confidential work having foreign relatives. Orders were then extended to cover any officer no matter on what duty and no matter if the foreign connection had long since been severed or relationship was so distant that as in one case the two cousins did not even know one another.

ZEPPELIN was very probably HQ of WNV and of most of Abwehr. General THIELE, Oberst. BOETZEL, Oberstleutnant Baron von der OSTEN, all three connected with 20.7.44 were out at ZEPPELIN.

NORDSTERN HAUS was used for technical work and machine supplies. Cellars were considered safer there than at the HAUS DES FREMDENVERKEHRS. After the OKW OKH.OKM had all been destroyed in one night in Nov. 43 offices were decentralised.

HAUS DES FREMDEN VERKEHRS was the official Center of "Chi" Teletype office, evaluation and messenger center and decoding office were there. "Chi" was an Army outfit and had liaison officers to the Navy and the Air-force. These were said to have the same kind of outfits but on a much smaller scale. Co-operation with the Air-force was difficult because GÖRLING wanted priority for the Air-force in all such work.

II

Berlin, Haus des Fremdenverkehrs
 Berlin-Zossen, Lager = Zeppelin
 Lauff bei Nürnberg

France, Bordeaux, Arcachon

Spain, Madrid, Barcelona, Vigo, Sevilla, Gran Canaria

Italy, Rome

Hungary, Budapest

Jugoslavia, Belgrad

Bulgaria, Sofia

III

Preparing for Japan was Hauptmann OPITZ with picked men who were to have started in the middle of March on a submarine. Only one of the whole group could speak a little Japanese or Chinese.

Berlin. KEMPF later KETTLER both first under THIELE then GIMMLER

Lauff: Major Dr. WENDT

Spain Hauptmann v.NIDA later Lt. PLANKERT

Bulgaria Lt GROTZ

Jugoslavia Oberstlt. ANDRAE but probably on another job as well

Lauff was staffed with men with foreign experience.
Men coming back from ScSp generally were sent there.

IV

Spain.

It is not known when Spain was started. But is thought that it must have been already prepared for before the war broke out. Scsp was in great disorder and full of personnel difficulties when taken over by Cpt.v.NIDA Jan. '40. V.NIDA stayed there till April or May 1943 when Lt. PLANKERT took over. V.NIDA went to BERLIN as Gruppenleiter I since ANDRAE went to Russia. KEMPF, Chef Chi, who was called to the front was replaced in August or September 1943 by KETTLER.

The first men to start work in Spain included several men who had taken part in the last Spanish Civil War. It was often commented on that OKW did not fetch Hptm. HERTZER for this job as he had been in charge of Imker Horch during the time of the Legion CONDOR. (Imker Horch - Special communications and listening service) Section Spain, Scsp as it will be referred to in the following was a top secret job. No one being sent there was allowed to communicate his whereabouts to anybody. Lists of officers and men on this work were generally filed "Führerreserve OKW". Pay was good but as no money paid in Spain was allowed to be transferred to Germany or vice versa, the men were annoyed and tried to overcome this difficulty which resulted in talk. By April '41 all married men with the exception of the "Chef" (Scsp) had been replaced by unmarried ones to ensure no German women wanting to go down and so applying for passports and endangering the secrecy of the business. Passports were made out in cooperation with the Abwehr and the German Foreign Office. All men went out under their own names. Reasons given for their entering Spain and if work there was proposed is unknown. As a rule Spain allowed no one to enter the country who wanted to earn their living. German *officers visiting Scsp were supplied with false names and specially prepared passports. Secrecy of the different sections was pretty well preserved. Even the different section-chefs knew little of one another. Their visits in BERLIN to report to OKW were so timed that they should not meet. Private correspondence from men in Scsp. was forwarded in double envelopes by OKW to addresses that had to have been previously agreed to. (Parents, wives) Large correspondence was not encouraged. Parcels were allowed only 4 a year per person. Mens' letters were subject to military censorship done at OKW Chi itself. All members of the outfit wore Mufti and lived together in little groups of two to ten. Some boarding with Spanish families, some renting flats or houses on their own, some living at the different offices which they guarded. Marriage to Spanish girls was strictly forbidden and absolutely impossible. Connection with Berlin-Chi

* only members of "Chi" itself.

was upheld by means of courier and teletyping. Couriers went by plane or train. As long as passage through France was possible couriers came twice a week by train. Anything particular was sent by plane. Luggage was declared either "Kurier-Gepäck" or "Diplomatengepäck". It was exempt from customs examination and was no longer allowed to be looked at by the German Foreign Office. No direct telephone communication was allowed with Spain as the entire telephone system in Spain belonged to America. Food supplies were procured partly through the German Embassy partly from Portugal, partly bought in the country itself, some of it on the black market. Gasoline, coffee, oil, cigarettes, flour and sugar were very difficult to get in 1941 but since then food situation eased a bit. Members of Scsp were not supposed to be seen in groups anywhere and were especially not allowed to mix with the German colony. Men were picked, not because of their knowledge of the language but according to their technical or other special proficiency. Medical aid was given when necessary by Dr. WISSMANN of the German colony who ought to know several names. Climate and food caused difficulties with nearly every new-comer but were soon overcome. Most of the men soon mastered the necessary small-talk. The German club was a very active Nazi center spying on every German that appeared in the country.

Headquarters of Scsp. were in MADRID. 1941 they were at 10 Ayala below the passport section of the German Embassy. Listening service work was very difficult as "efe" just over the road worked day and night causing disturbance. Technical installments such as wireless receiving and emitting stations were placed on the outskirts of the town. Teletyping was down in the town office. In July '41 the MADRID town office moved to a big new house on Castellana. Other offices in Spain were in BARCELONA, SEVILLA, VIGO Canary Islands. In '42 the BARCELONA outfit was probably taken over by the Luftwaffe. It had done badly most of the time. SEVILLA on the other hand was being enlarged and turned in good work. Man in charge was Lt. EICHNER. The organization of the economics and the contacting of the Spanish officials lay in the hands of Hans AMBERG. and FRIEDEMANN. Both spoke and looked Spanish and had had years of experience in Spanish speaking countries. Office on the Canary Isles was on GRAN CANARIAS under MAUR. MAUR and his wife had been representatives of the Lufthansa and taken over with one or two others such as JESCHOL. Another office had been contemplated on at ALGECIRAS but that place proved to be too full of English people. It was then forbidden to all Germans working at Scsp to visit that part of the country on their inner-Spanish holidays. Only the Chef had permission to go when he thought it necessary and had to make a particular report on it at once. All movings in the port of GIBRALTAR were of particular interest. Although being an Army outfit, Scsp was doing work that belonged to the Navy. i.e. Geleitzugüberwachung. (Keeping check on convoys.) That was probably owing to the fact that Admiral CANARIS was the man responsible for the whole thing. Navy engineers helped in the enlarging of the SEVILLA office. The few men that had been there from the Luftwaffe disappeared.

Names of officers that contacted Scsp. in some way:

PIEKENBROCK, Oberst. Abt. Chef OKW Abwehr III. Gen. Stab
 JUPPE, Generalleutnant. Abteilungs Chef OKW (WNV)
 GIMMLER, Generalleut. Abt. Chef OKH. Wa. Prüf. 7 Became Chef WNV
 after 20th July 1944
 BRUNS, Gen. Maj. z.V. Ob.d.H. (Sonstige Offiziere) 1941 was in
 Spain in Uniform, must have been either Mil. Att. or
 Gehilfe.
 THIELE, Gen. Maj. Chef d. Stabes in 7 (Insp. Nach. Trupp)

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KEMPF, Oberst. OKW (WNV) Chef Chi till Aug. or Sept. '43
 BOETZEL, Oberst. OKW, (WNV) Norway, Sofia? Rom?
 KETTLER, Oberst. OKW/ in 7 Chef Chi after KEMPF.
 v. NIDA, Major. Gr. Lt. I in charge of Sosp 10.1.40-Apr. 42
 Apr. 42 till Nov 43 Gruppenleiter I Berlin
 ANDRAE, Major, Gruppenleiter I Chi till Apr. 42 then Belgrad
 METTIG, Major Gruppenleiter I Chi since Nov. 43 came from In 7
 GROTZ, Hptm. N.A. 26 Had Sofia then Chi Berlin

In command of Sosp was Admiral CANARIS till he was replaced owing to the SS taking over. The outfit worked on under GIMMLER but he was checked by someone from HIMMLER's HQ

V

Explanation of abbreviations.

Abt. Abteilung Section
 OKW Ober Kommando der Wehrmacht. Germ. Supreme Command.
 Abw. Abwehr Counter Intelligence
 Gen. St. General Stab General Staff
 WNV Wehrmacht Nachrichten Verbindungen Communications.
 OKH Ober Kommando des Heeres. Supr. Com Army
 Wa. Prüf. 7 Waffen Prüfung 7=Nachrichten Gerät
 z.V. Ob. d. H. Zur Verfügung Oberkommando des Heeres. At disposal
 Chi Chiffrier Abteilung Deciphering section
 In 7 Inspection der Nachrichten Truppen Inspection of communication
 N.A. Nachrichten Abteilung Signal battalion

VI

Comments re Personalities in Report on Chiffrier Abt

1. AMBERG No trace
2. ANDRAE Possibly id/w Card No. 1117; Oblt Dr. Gottfried ANDREAS, Abwehr I Officer, GREECE, BULGARIA & TURKEY.
3. BOETZEL Id/w Card No. 12813; Oberstlt BOETZEL, formerly in OKW-Chi, considered exceptionally intelligent, badly wounded in NORWAY and replaced (1940).
4. BRUNS Probably id/w card No. 420; Walter BRUNS, Lissabon, Portugal (?), General-major from 1 Apr 42, formerly Col, MA Deutsche Gesandtschaft PORTUGAL up to 5 Jun 42. 5 Jun 42. Gen Maj Walter BRUNS was captured at GOETTINGEN (?L52/C52), 8 Apr 45, and is the subject of a "German atrocities" interrogation, 6824 DIC (MIS)/CI-24, dated 29 Apr 45. Inasmuch as no report of CI interrogation has yet been received from 6824 DIC, further interrogation is being requested.
5. EICHNER Probably id/w Card No. 4587; Lt employed by Ausson-stelle of OKW-Chi in LIBOURNE, France, first reported July, 44.
6. FRIEDERMANN Probably not id/w Card No. 9371; Dr. FRIEDMANN, member of ALat PARIS (probably IM) - reported Dec 43.

- No trace.
- No trace
- No trace
- " "
- " "
12. JUPPE
12. KEMPF Id/w Card No. amend 1366; Oberst Siegfried (?) KEMPF, probably Leiter OKW-Chi, closely connected with Abwehr Amt, first reported Feb 42, still at same post Sep 43, may have been replaced Oct 43.
13. KETTLER
- a. Id/w Card No. 12484; Oberst KETTLER, OKW-Chi (Feb-Nov 44). Member of Nachrichten Regt 506.
- b. Probably not id/w; (1) Card No. 16025; Horst KETTLER, employee German Consulate VALPARAISO as cipher clerk. Passport 82/42. Arrested in connection with Sc American espionage case; repatriated to Germany Nov 43. Born 3 Oct 13 in BREMEN.
- (2) Probably not id/w Card No. AG/10138; KETTLER, worked in Hq Jagdverband SW in TIEFENTHAL, from CHILE, wife is in CHILE, speaks fluent Spanish. Born about 1915, slender build, blond hair, light color eyes. Can be expected to desert if given opportunity. (Probably id/w Horst, above).
14. MAUR No trace.
15. METTIG Id/w Card No. 501; Maj METTIG, OKW-Chi (Jun 44). Member Nachrichten Regt 506.
16. von NIDA Probably not id/w:
- a. Card No. 207: Krug von NIDDA, Minister, Chief of German Mission to VICHY (since Oct 41), formerly Consul General. Correspondent for "Deutschen Allgemeinen Zeitung" in PARIS (up to 25 Jan 43). 46 years old (i.e. born 1899).
- b. Card No. 2006: Roland Krug zu NIDDA, German Consul-General at VICHY until 43, connected with Sipo u SD and Abwehr. Attached before the war to the "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" and is believed to have used these journalistic activities as a cover for espionage. Attended an important Abwehr conference at BOURGES (Nov 41) and paid regular visits to Abwehr stations. His vice-Consul was Dr. REICHE, a member of the Sipo u SD. Replaced by RENTHE FINCK (43). Visited BERNE for conversations with the German Legation. Described as Ambassador in Foreign Office, BERLIN (Apr 44).
- c. Karl Ludwig Krug von NIDDA was arrested as a Ministerialrat, Office of Social Welfare, Ministry of the Interior at PEITING (M48/Y31), by the 510th CIC Det, 23 May 45. He was evacuated to the Seventh Army Interrogation Center. Interrogation Report is being requested to determine whether id/w von NIDDA, above.

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17. OPITZ Possibly id/w Card No. 382; Dr OPITZ @ ALTER @ JOAN, Fregattenkapitaen, possibly Leiter IM, Ast BORDEAUX (until early 44). Probably id/w Korvettenkapitaen OBERMUELLER reported (Jan 44) possibly Leiter IM BORDEAUX. Visited MADRID in that month. Visited IRAN, MADRID and SAN SEBASTIAN, when there were indications that he was concerned with the extension of W/T communications between FRANCE & SPAIN (Aug 41). Was responsible for collecting shipping intelligence from SPAIN through small fishing vessels acquired by the Abwehr (42). Was again in SAN SEBASTIAN (Dec 43).
18. OSTEN Probably id/w Card No. 279 - Amend No. 1514; Hptm von der OSTEN, Abwehr I (38). In IH/West (Aug 40). Promoted to Hptm (Jan 43). Very intelligent and spoke many languages. Went on mission to INDIA, where believed killed or captured (Aug 44).
19. PIEKENBROCK Probably id/w Card No. 967; Hans PIEKENBROCK @ Hans PASSARGE, General Major, commanding a Grenadier Regt. Formerly Chef Abwehr Abt I (38 - Mar 43). Visited the HAGUE on CANARIS' staff; similarly HEISINKI and TALLINN (Aug 38 & Jun 39). Was the right-hand man and deputy of CANARIS. Made many journeys to Abwehrstellen in all parts of Europe; travelled to the Iberian Peninsula as Hans PASSARGE.
20. PLANKERT No trace.
21. THIELE
 a. Probably id/w Card No. 10445; Generalmajor THIELE, Chef der Amtsgruppe Wehrmacht Nachrichten Verbindungen im OKW (Chief of the Wehrmacht Communications Liaison Group, OKW). Leiter des Fernmeldewesens beim Reichsfuehrer SS up to 20 Oct 42. (Chief of long-distance communications for the SS Chief). Possibly id/w Card No. 10447; Fritz THIELE, formerly Oberst (Col), Generalmajor im Heer (Army) since 1 Oct 42.
 b. Possibly id/w Card No. 215; Oberstlt Hans von THIELE @ Dr Werner TRAUT(H)MANN, Leiter II, Ast HAMBURG, Funkleiter Uebersee (overseas W/T Chief) II. First reported in BREST as a Major (Jun 40). Constantly visited Ast HAMBURG W/T stations outside Germany, particularly FRANCE, SPAIN, and PORTUGAL, eg visited MADRID & LISBON every 3 or 4 months, travelling usually as Regierungsrat (later Oberregierungsrat) Werner TRAUTMANN (40-44). Promoted Oberstlt Apr 42. Possibly promoted Oberst by May 44. Still at post, as above, May 44. Photograph bears following inscription in Portuguese "Dr TRAUTHMANN vulgo Dr THIELE, chefe do Servico de Transmisao e Recepcao do Servico Secreto Alemao em todo o mundo". Born 4 July 95 at STETTIN, height 5'5" (1.65m), physical descriptions contradictory. His son, Sylvester Freiherr von THIELE was badly wounded and captured in Italy (Jan 44).
 c. Card No. 41264; Hans Otto THIELE @ Don JUAN @ BERTRAND, Abwehr member, participated in discussions with Dr WEISS, Leiter I T/LW, KO SPAIN, and Anita BAKKER regarding possible mission to USA (Autumn 44). Speaks fluent Spanish, French and English. MADRID address: Calle Francisco Rojas 7 or 8, 2e. Born ca 1905, height 5'10" (1.78m), heavy build, prominent hook nose, shifty eyes, blond hair going bald.

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d. Probably not id/w Card No. 16065: Fritz THIELE, member of German Consulate VALPARAISO, in touch with German agent Frithgof SCHMIDT, now in ARGENTINA. Repatriated to Germany (Sep 43). Passport No. 1509. Born 1896 in BERLIN.

22. WENDT

Probably not id/w

a. Card No. 913: WENDT, dispatched from BELGRADE to Abwehrtrupp 171, SALONIKA (Dec 43).

b. Card No. 909: Hans Georg Karl WENDT, agent in STOCKHOLM. Journalist representing Zeitungsdienst Graf Reichschach. Possibly id/w agent of Ast STETTIN named WENDT. In PARIS (37439). Left LONDON, whither he had moved in summer (Aug 39). Born 14 Feb 03 at MAGDEBURG.

23. WISSMANN

No trace